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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the **SUNDAY** Papers of July 16, 1944.

The apportionment of \$806,500 among the States for the restoration and development of their wildlife resources during the fiscal year 1945 under the terms of the Pittman-Robertson Act was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The sum allotted to the States for 1945 is the smallest since the Act became effective on July 1, 1933. Apportionments in the three previous years provided \$910,000 in 1944; \$1,128,000 in 1943; and \$2,530,000 in 1942.

Since participating States are required to contribute 25 percent of the cost of projects, the total Federal apportionment of \$806,500 plus the States' contributions will make \$1,075,333 available for wildlife restoration projects this year. All projects are approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of Secretary Ickes to determine whether they are sound in character and design.

The funds used by the Federal Government for the Federal Aid program come from the 10 percent excise tax on ammunition and sporting arms. Although the income from this tax is earmarked for wildlife restoration work, it can be expended only on the authorization of Congress. The authorization this year was \$900,000, of which \$82,500 will be required for administration of the program, \$9,000 for the conduct of wildlife projects in Alaska and \$2,000 for the same purpose in the Virgin Islands, leaving \$806,500 for the States.

Michigan, Texas, and Pennsylvania will receive the three largest of the allotments which are made in accordance with the size of the States and the number of hunting licenses they sell. California, New York, and Ohio rank fourth, fifth, and sixth, respectively.

All States are eligible to participate in the apportionment of the funds with the exception of Nevada, which has not passed assent legislation, and South Dakota. The latter was ruled ineligible to participate last year due to legislation enacted in the State in March 1943 which resulted in a diversion of license receipts. Under the terms of the Pittman-Robertson Act funds may not be provided to States which divert license fees paid by hunters to any purpose other than the operation of the State Fish and Game Departments.

Allotments to each State for 1944-45 are as follows: Alabama, \$12,930.73; Arizona, \$17,052.30; Arkansas, \$10,312.82; California, \$34,493.03; Colorado,

\$23,654.02; Connecticut, \$2,538.83; Delaware, \$1,054.23; Florida, \$11,061.79; Georgia, \$10,977.01; Idaho, \$17,211.58; Illinois, \$23,673.08; Indiana, \$23,652.97; Iowa, \$18,504.73.

Kansas, \$15,851.77; Kentucky, \$9,234.75; Louisiana, \$13,011.88; Maine, \$9,710.47; Maryland, \$5,504.77; Massachusetts, \$5,279.41; Michigan, \$47,452.82; Minnesota, \$29,734.80; Mississippi, \$12,886.19; Missouri, \$19,724.82; Montana, \$24,836.88; Nebraska, \$16,698.95; Nevada, \$15,561.47; New Hampshire, \$4,117.49; New Jersey, \$7,189.62; New Mexico, \$17,506.10; New York, \$34,161.28; North Carolina, \$14,036.68; North Dakota, \$12,125.47; Ohio, \$33,099.96.

Oklahoma, \$14,205.85; Oregon, \$18,342.60; Pennsylvania, \$38,416.59; Rhode Island, \$638.75; South Carolina, \$8,431.74; South Dakota, \$15,808.37; Tennessee, \$12,312.05; Texas, \$41,692.55; Utah, \$16,000.46; Vermont, \$3,628.56; Virginia, \$13,048.42; Washington, \$22,299.09; West Virginia, \$11,420.90; Wisconsin, \$20,303.40; and Wyoming, \$15,107.47.